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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,451	07/16/2002	Donna K. Johnson	BUR920010219	5792

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EXAMINER

KACKAR, RAM N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/064,451

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON ET AL.

Examiner

Ram N Kackar

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/31/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-15,17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-15,17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1763

DETAILED ACTION

1. Your RCE dated 8/31/2004 is acknowledged.

Specification

2. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 13 depends upon cancelled claim 8. For examination purpose claim 13 is assumed to depend upon 7. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma et al (US 6596086) in view of Hoshina et al (US 5785764).

Honma et al disclose a susceptor having a pocket to hold substrate having an inner edge and a lower surface (Fig 1 5a) and opening in lower surface for lift pins to lift the substrate (5b

Honma et al do not disclose plurality of beveled edge projections extending radially inward from the inner edge

Hoshina et al disclose a susceptor with a pocket to hold a substrate, plurality of C shaped projections (Fig 5A-17) extending radially inwards at an acute angle of 80 degrees with respect to bottom of pocket (Col 3 lines 10-43 and Col 7 lines 5-15). Inherently these projections

Art Unit: 1763

maintain a gap below the projection and restrict the movement of the standard substrate with a straight edge.

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have a plurality of projection in order to hold substrate in position with a very small area of contact.

5. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao et al (US5968379) in view of Hoshina et al (US 5785764).

Zhao et al disclose a susceptor having a pocket to hold substrate having an inner edge and a lower surface (Fig 2-34) and opening in lower surface for lift pins to lift the substrate (Col 11 line 1-18 and Col 19 lines 1-8).

Zhao et al do not disclose plurality of beveled edge projections extending radially inward from the inner edge

Hoshina et al disclose a susceptor with a pocket to hold a substrate, plurality of C shaped projections (Fig 5A-17) extending radially inwards at an acute angle of 80 degrees with respect to bottom of pocket (Col 3 lines 10-43 and Col 7 lines 5-15). Inherently these projections maintain a gap below the projection and restrict the movement of the standard substrate with a straight edge.

Therefore it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have a plurality of projection in order to hold substrate in position with a very small area of contact.

Art Unit: 1763

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 7/28/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Since Hoshina discloses angle of 80 degrees, it is in overlapping range with the claim of 80-85 degrees.

Applicant has not demonstrated the criticality of angle greater than 80 and smaller than 85. The observation disclosed seems to suggest that as the angle is increased the error rate reduces. This would suggest that if the angle was 90 and not an acute angle the error would be still lower. However the specification clearly requires an acute angle. If the error is minimum between 80-85, there is no demonstration of it.

As the WOOPS (wafer out of pocket error) error is disclosed in the prior art apparatus it is not clear if experiments were done in the inventive apparatus with every thing remaining same except the angle being varied.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on 571 272 1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1763

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RK

Ramkaran

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